

Tri-State Motor Transit Co. Post Off ice Box 113 Joplin, Missouri 64602 417 624 3131

August 12. i993

FHWA Docket No. MC 92-4 Room 4232 HCC-10 Office Of The Chief Council Federal Highway Administration 400 Seventh Street SW Washington, DC 20590

FHWA-97-2180-16

To Whom It May Concern:

Tri-State Motor Transit Co. supports the Federal Highway Administration proposed rule making in FHWA Docket So. MC-92-4. Tri-State does however wish to submit for review the following comments. if the intent of this rule making is to enhance safety, then it is our position that the sooner the program is expanded to cover all hazardous materials the more effect it will have in reaching this goal.

FHWA is recommending a three year phase in period to ease the economic. burden for industries such as explosive magazine operators, quarry operators, farmers, and persons involved in fireworks displays. With the lack of regulatory enforcement on these industries and their track record with regard to explosives handling incidents, we feel that the three year phase in period should absolutely not be extended and serious consideration should be given to reducing this time period.

With regard to the proposed inspection requirements for highway route control quantities of radioactive material, we agree with the FHWA proposal of utilizing Part 396. Appendix G to Subchapter B, "Minimum Periodic Inspection Standards" to meet the inspection criteria. However, since it would be beyond the scope of any carrier to have an inspector available immediately prior to any shipment of HRCQ commodities, do to the fact most carriers do not have terminals located adjacent to shippers of HRCQ, we suggest that the burden of the safety inspection be put upon the shipper. In order to simplify this burden and procedures, we further suggest the adoption of a form similar in nature and composition to the approved DOD Inspection Form 636.(copy attached)

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This is a widely accepted Form and has been in use a number of years and we believe it meets all the criteria and would be easily adaptable to the FHWA proposal for inspection. To require the carrier to perform the inspection would cause a great financial burden that would have to be passed to the shipper and be unrealistic.

Again, Tri-Slate supports the proposed rule making as we feel it will further the cause of safety on our nations highways. Should you have any questions, please contact the undersigned at (4 17 j 624-3 1 3 1

Sincerely,

TRI-STATE MOTOR TRANSIT CO.

Jeff Cooney

Director

Safety & Security

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